4 October 1965

Miss Marjorie McAlinden
California Farmer
Room 402 - 2412 W. Seventh St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90057

Dear Miss McAlinden:

I am sorry but I can't be of much help this time. By the time I returned from our vacation trip into northern California, the material was rather far gone. No. 2 from Alaska had completely rotted away. I have no idea what weed might have been enclosed. There was no sign of flower nor fruit, so it is likely I could not have identified it if in good condition.

No. 1. Was very good and ample material, still in excellent condition. It is a pleasure to identify such specimens. It is undoubtedly Acacia melanoxylon R. Br., Blackwood Acacia, from eastern Australia. As for good qualities, I suppose it is desireble mainly because it is a good evergreen shade tree growing to about 20 feet, often with a pyramidal form and with dense foliage. It is of considerable botanical interest because sucker shoots and young seedlings often show, as in this specimen, all the transitions between the greatly decompound leaf and the phyllodes of the adult trees, in which the leaves are reduced to the flattened and greatly expanded petiole with perhaps some of the rhachis of the leaf.

No 3. I am quite incompetent to name the varieties of fruit trees. I can agree that this is a domestic plum, nothing more. I would suggest that the reader send in a specimen to the Department of Pomology, UCDavis, to learn What variety it is. Perhaps he could get the information from one of the state experiment stations.

Perhaps my batting average will be better next time. I felt rather frustrated by Nos. 2 and 3.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Thorne